

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 04241 111552Z

53

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /085 W

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O R 111536Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9821

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 4241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, SZ, SW, AU

SUBJECT: IEP AND THE NEUTRALITY ISSUE

REF: A) STOCKHOLM 5013; B) BERN 2176; C) BRUSSELS 8758

1. WE CONCUR FULLY WITH EMBASSY STOCKHOLM (REF A) RE SIG-
NIFICANCE OF PARTICIPATION BY 3 EUROPEAN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

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PAGE 02 BERN 04241 111552Z

IN IEP. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IN OUR PUBLIC DISCUSSION

OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN IEP WE NOT HIGHLIGHT POINT THAT SWITZERLAND AND OTHER NEUTRALS ARE TAKING THROUGH IEP MAJOR STEP TOWARD RECOGNIZING THAT ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE ALSO HAS POLITICAL DIMENSION. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT SWITZERLAND IS PREPARED TO MEET ALL ITS IEP COMMITMENTS BU TRADITION OF NEUTRALITY ALSO REQUIRES THAT SWISS PUBLIC BE ASSURED THAT PARTICIPATION IN IEP DOES NOT MARK CHANGE IN THIS LONG-STANDING FOREIGN POLICY.

2. EVERY EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN BERN INDICATES THAT SWISS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT IEP AND ARE DEFINITELY NOT SEEKING THROUGH NEUTRALITY DECLARATION AN ESCAPE CLAUSE FROM ANY COMMITMENTS.

3. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT PARTICIPATION OF 3 NEUTRAL COUNTRIES WOULD SEEM TO HELP DEFUSE ARGUMENT THAT IEA WILL BE USED AS OFFENSIVE TOOL TO PREPARE FOR CONFRONTATION WITH OIL PRODUCERS. THIS IS ASPECT OF SWISS PARTICIPATION IN IEP THAT DOES CAUSE GOS PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM AS EXEMPLIFIED BY SOME QUESTIONS ASKED AT NOVEMBER 6 BRUGGER PRESS CONFERENCE. GOS OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT SWITZELAND CAN ACCEPT IEP COMMITMENTS, WILL FULLY DISCHARGE THEM, AND THAT IEP IS BASICALLY DEFENSIVE INSTRUMENT.

4. IN VIEW ECG INABILITY RESOLVE NEUTRALITY ISSUE NOVEMBER 8 AND DECISION REFER MATTER TO NOVEMBER 12 WORKING GROUP SESSION (REF C), WE ASSUME AMBASSADOR SCHNYDER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED RAISE SUBJECT AT HIGH LEVEL IN WASHINGTON. WE THINK PARTICIPATION BY SWITZERLAND AND OTHER NEUTRALS IN IEP WOULD BE USEFUL BOTH FOR US AND FOR THEM, AND THUS WE HOPE USG CAN BY SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR NEED TO VERBALIZE THEIR ON-GOING NEUTRALITY.
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